

Remarks

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed August 11, 2003. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's consideration of the Application and respectfully request favorable action in this case.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgement that Claims 11 and 12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Although Applicants believe all pending claims are allowable over the prior art of record without amendment, Applicants have amended Claim 11 to expedite issuance of this Application. Pursuant to the Examiner's instructions, Applicants have rewritten Claim 11 in independent form by incorporating the limitations of its base Claim 10. This amendment does not change the substantive scope of the Claim 11. Now that Claim 11 is rewritten in independent form, Applicants respectfully request the allowance of independent Claim 11, as well as its dependent Claim 12.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's allowance of Claims 14-18, 20, 21, 24, 26, 37, 38, 40-44, 53, 54, 56-60, and 62-65. These claims have not been amended and, thus, remain in condition for allowance.

Rejected Claims

In the Office Action mailed August 11, 2003, the Examiner rejected Claims 2-5, 7-10, 28-31, 34, 35, 46-51, and 66. Although Applicants believe all pending claims are allowable over the prior art of record without amendment, Applicants have cancelled Claims 2-5, 7-10, 28-31, 34, 35, 46-51, and 66, without prejudice or disclaimer, to expedite issuance of this Application. Applicants retain the right to pursue the subject matter of these cancelled claim in a continuation application.

Conclusion

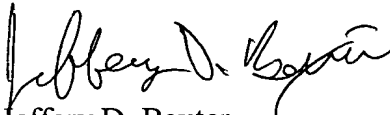
Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this Application in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and full allowance of all pending claims.

If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the Examiner is invited to contact Jeffery D. Baxter, Attorney for Applicants, at the Examiner's convenience at (214) 953-6791.

Although Applicants believe no fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.
Attorneys for Applicants


Jeffery D. Baxter
Reg. No. 45,560

Date: September 2, 2003

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS:

2001 Ross Avenue, Suite 600
Dallas, TX 75201-2980
(214) 953-6791
(214) 661-4791 - Fax

Customer Number

05073